

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data search system, comprising:

a data retrieving part for retrieving data;

5 a classifying and arranging part for classifying and arranging data in the data retrieving part on a display screen in accordance with feature values;

a ground information providing part for providing each data with ground information visualizing grounds for classification and arrangement of the data by the classifying and arranging part; and

10 a display part for displaying each data together with corresponding ground information in accordance with classification and arrangement information from the classifying and arranging part.

2. A data search system according to claim 1, utilizing a search key for a

15 subsequent search, ground information displayed on the display part or a part of the ground information, or information obtained by altering a part of the ground information, and conducting subsequent search processing.

3. A data search system according to claim 2, wherein the classifying and

20 arranging part conducts self-organization mapping processing in classification and arrangement processing of data so that data having similar feature values are disposed close to each other.

4. A data search system according to claim 1, wherein the classifying and

25 arranging part conducts self-organization mapping processing in classification and arrangement processing of data so that data having similar feature values are disposed close to each other.

5. A data search system according to claim 1, wherein the ground information

30 is label information representing information on feature values used in the classification and arrangement and distribution information on the feature values of the data.

FIG. 10

6. A data search system according to claim 5, wherein the data is image data, and in the label information, the information on feature values is color information, and distribution information on the feature values is color histogram information.

7. A data search system according to claim 5, wherein the data is image data, and in the label information, the information on feature values is information on wavelet conversion feature values, and distribution information on the feature values is distribution information on frequency components of image data subjected to wavelet conversion.

8. A data search system according to claim 5, wherein the data is image data, and in the label information, information on the feature values is edge information in image data, and distribution information on the feature values is histogram information including a direction of an edge portion in the image data as an element.

9. A data search system according to claim 5, wherein the data is image data, and in the label information, the information on feature values is color information, and distribution information on the feature values is representative color information.

10. A data search method, comprising:

retrieving data;

classifying and arranging the data at a position on a display screen in accordance with feature values;

providing each data with ground information visualizing grounds for classification and arrangement at the position on the display screen; and

displaying each data together with corresponding ground information at a classification and arrangement position.

11. A computer program for realizing a data search system, comprising:
  - data retrieving processing for retrieving data;
  - classifying and arranging processing for classifying and arranging the data obtained from the data retrieving processing at a position on a display
- 5 screen in accordance with feature values;
  - ground information providing processing of providing each data with ground information visualizing grounds for classification and arrangement at the position, in the classifying and arranging processing; and
  - display processing of displaying each data together with
- 10 corresponding ground information at a classification and arrangement position.